

Year 6

Spelling & Vocabulary List



The official Year 6 spelling and vocabulary words, with meanings, examples and how to say each one.

What this list is. This is the Year 6 half of the statutory Years 5/6 National Curriculum spelling list, plus extra stretch words beyond the statutory list, taken directly from the National Curriculum spelling programme of study. Every word includes its word type, a kid-friendly meaning, an example sentence and a simple guide to how it sounds.

60 words

49 tricky spellings

How to say each one

How to use this list. Read through a few words a day rather than the whole list in one sitting. For each word flagged **TRICKY**, say the word out loud, cover it, write it from memory, then check. The “why it's tricky” note explains exactly what usually goes wrong.

Want these words as interactive flashcards with a match game and a spelling test? Practise them free at pip11plus.com/11-plus-vocabulary-year-6, or read the full [Year 6 11+ preparation guide](#).



STATUTORY LIST

Words 1 to 10 of 50

accompany VERB

TRICKY

uh-KUM-puh-nee

to go somewhere with someone.

"A teacher will accompany the class on the museum trip."

Why it's tricky Double 'c' and double 'm' in the middle.

achieve VERB

TRICKY

uh-CHEEV

to succeed in doing something after trying hard.

"She worked hard to achieve top marks in the test."

Why it's tricky 'i' before 'e' after the 'ch'.

amateur NOUN

TRICKY

AM-uh-ter

someone who does something for fun, not for money.

"He is an amateur photographer who takes pictures at weekends."

Why it's tricky Ends in '-eur', not '-er'.

apparent ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

uh-PA-runt

easy to see or understand; obvious.

"It was apparent that she had been crying."

Why it's tricky Double 'p', single 'r'.

attached ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

uh-TACHT

joined or fastened to something.

"There was a label attached to the present."

Why it's tricky Double 't' in the middle.

average NOUN

TRICKY

AV-ruj

the usual amount, or the result of adding numbers and dividing.

"The average of three, four and five is four."

Why it's tricky The middle 'e' is barely heard.

bargain NOUN

TRICKY

BAR-gin

something bought for less than its usual price.

"The coat was a real bargain in the sale."

Why it's tricky Ends in '-ain', said like 'gin'.

category NOUN

TRICKY

KAT-uh-gree

a group of things that are alike in some way.

"Apples and pears belong in the fruit category."

Why it's tricky Don't forget the middle 'e' in '-egory'.

committee NOUN

TRICKY

kuh-MIT-ee

a group of people chosen to make decisions together.

"The school committee planned the summer fair."

Why it's tricky Double 'm', double 't' and double 'e'.

community NOUN

kuh-MYOO-nuh-tee

all the people who live in one area.

"Our whole community came to the village picnic."

conscience NOUN

TRICKY

KON-shunss

the feeling inside that tells you right from wrong.

"His conscience told him to give the lost purse back."

Why it's tricky Silent 'c' in the middle and a 'sci' that says 'sh'.

controversy NOUN

KON-truh-ver-see

a big argument or disagreement between many people.

"The new rule caused a lot of controversy at school."

correspond VERB

TRICKY

ko-ruh-SPOND

to match or be the same as something else.

"The numbers on the map correspond to places in the list."

Why it's tricky Double 'r' in the middle.

curiosity NOUN

kyoor-ee-OSS-uh-tee

the wish to learn or find out about things.

"Her curiosity made her open the mysterious box."

desperate ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

DESS-puh-rut

needing or wanting something very badly.

"He was desperate for a drink after the long run."

Why it's tricky It's '-per-' in the middle, and '-ate' sounds like 'ut'.

develop VERB

TRICKY

dih-VEL-up

to grow or change into something bigger or better.

"Tadpoles slowly develop into frogs."

Why it's tricky No 'e' on the end and only one 'l'.

disastrous ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

dih-ZAH-struss

very bad; causing a lot of damage or trouble.

"The storm had disastrous effects on the crops."

Why it's tricky No 'e' before the '-ous' (not 'disasterous').

environment NOUN

TRICKY

in-VY-run-munt

the natural world around us, or your surroundings.

"We must look after the environment by not dropping litter."

Why it's tricky Silent 'n' before the 'm'.

especially ADVERB

TRICKY

iss-PESH-uh-lee

more than usual; in particular.

"I love fruit, especially strawberries."

Why it's tricky Starts with 'e', and 'ci' says 'sh'.

excellent ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

EK-suh-lunt

very good indeed.

"She did an excellent job on her project."

Why it's tricky Double 'l' in the middle.

explanation NOUN

TRICKY

ek-spluh-NAY-shun

the reason why something happens, made clear.

"The teacher gave a clear explanation of the rules."

Why it's tricky No 'i' in the middle (unlike 'explain').

foreign ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

FO-rin

from another country.

"She is learning a foreign language at school."

Why it's tricky Silent 'g' and the 'ei' says 'i'.

frequently ADVERB

FREE-kwunt-lee

often; many times.

"He frequently visits his grandparents at weekends."

guarantee NOUN

TRICKY

ga-run-TEE

a promise that something will work or be done.

"The toy came with a one-year guarantee."

Why it's tricky Silent 'u' after the 'g'.

hindrance NOUN

TRICKY

HIN-drunss

something that gets in the way or makes things harder.

"The heavy bag was a hindrance on the long walk."

Why it's tricky No 'e' after the 'd' (unlike 'hinder').

immediately ADVERB

TRICKY

ih-MEE-dee-ut-lee

straight away; right now.

"Please come inside immediately, it's starting to rain."

Why it's tricky Double 'm' at the start.

interfere VERB

TRICKY

in-ter-FEER

to get involved in something that is not your business.

"Try not to interfere when others are working."

Why it's tricky Ends in '-fere', not '-fear'.

language NOUN

TRICKY

LANG-gwij

the words people use to speak or write.

"French is a beautiful language to learn."

Why it's tricky There's a hidden 'u' in '-guage'.

lightning NOUN

TRICKY

LYT-ning

the bright flash of light in the sky during a storm.

"A bolt of lightning lit up the dark sky."

Why it's tricky No 'e'; it isn't spelt like 'lightening'.

mischievous ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

MISS-chuh-vuss

playful in a naughty way.

"The mischievous puppy hid one of my shoes."

Why it's tricky No 'i' before the '-ous' (not 'mischievious').

necessary ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

NESS-uh-suh-ree

needed; something you must have or do.

"It is necessary to wear a seatbelt in the car."
Why it's tricky One 'c' and double 's'.

nuisance NOUN

TRICKY

NYOO-sunss

a person or thing that is annoying.

"The buzzing fly was a real nuisance."
Why it's tricky 'ui' says 'oo' and it ends in '-ance'.

occur VERB

TRICKY

uh-KUR

to happen.

"Eclipses occur only a few times a year."
Why it's tricky Double 'c' and double 'r'.

parliament NOUN

TRICKY

PAR-luh-munt

the group of people who make a country's laws.

"New laws are debated in parliament."
Why it's tricky Silent 'i' in '-lia-'.

physical ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

FIZ-ik-ul

to do with the body, or things you can touch.

"Running is good physical exercise."
Why it's tricky 'ph' says 'f' and 'y' says 'i'.

privilege NOUN

TRICKY

PRIV-uh-lij

a special right or advantage given to some people.

"It was a privilege to meet the famous author."
Why it's tricky No 'd'; it ends in '-lege' said like 'lij'.

programme NOUN

TRICKY

PROH-gram

a planned set of events, or a show on TV.

"My favourite programme is on at six o'clock."
Why it's tricky British spelling ends in '-amme'.

queue NOUN

TRICKY

kyoo

a line of people waiting for their turn.

"We stood in the queue for the ice cream van."
Why it's tricky Four silent letters: just say 'Q'.

recommend VERB

TRICKY

rek-uh-MEND

to suggest something as good or worth doing.

"I would recommend this book to my friends."
Why it's tricky One 'c' but double 'm'.

restaurant NOUN

TRICKY

RESS-tuh-ront

a place where you go to buy and eat a meal.

"We had pizza at an Italian restaurant."
Why it's tricky Hidden 'au' and a quiet '-rant' ending.

rhythm NOUN

TRICKY

RIDH-um

a regular pattern of beats in music or sound.

"We clapped along to the rhythm of the song."

Why it's tricky Two 'h's and no proper vowels.

secretary NOUN

TRICKY

SEK-ruh-tree

a person who helps run an office and keeps records.

"The school secretary answered the phone in the office."

Why it's tricky Don't forget the hidden '-eta-' in the middle.

signature NOUN

TRICKY

SIG-nuh-cher

your name written in your own special way.

"She put her signature at the bottom of the letter."

Why it's tricky Silent 'g' and a '-ture' that says 'cher'.

soldier NOUN

TRICKY

SOHL-er

a person who is in an army.

"The brave soldier marched in the parade."

Why it's tricky The 'di' says 'j'.

sufficient ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

suh-FISH-unt

enough for what is needed.

"We had sufficient food for everyone at the party."

Why it's tricky Double 'f' and 'ci' says 'sh'.

symbol NOUN

TRICKY

SIM-bul

a sign or shape that stands for something.

"A heart is a symbol of love."

Why it's tricky The 'y' says 'i'.

temperature NOUN

TRICKY

TEM-pruh-cher

how hot or cold something is.

"The nurse took my temperature when I felt ill."

Why it's tricky Hidden '-era-' and a '-ture' that says 'cher'.

twelfth NOUN

TRICKY

twelfth

coming after the eleventh; number twelve in order.

"Her birthday is on the twelfth of May."

Why it's tricky Don't drop the 'f' before '-th'.

vegetable NOUN

TRICKY

VEJ-tuh-bul

a plant or part of a plant we eat as food.

"A carrot is my favourite vegetable."

Why it's tricky There's a hidden 'e' in '-geta-'.

yacht NOUN

TRICKY

yot

a boat with sails used for racing or sailing for fun.

"They sailed the yacht across the bay."

Why it's tricky Silent 'ch' in the middle.

BEYOND THE LIST Stretch vocabulary, 10 words

These words go beyond the statutory Year 6 list. They are the kind of richer Tier 2 vocabulary the 11+ rewards in writing, verbal reasoning and comprehension.

abundant ADJECTIVE

uh-BUN-dunt

present in large amounts; more than enough.

"Apples were abundant in the orchard this autumn."

benevolent ADJECTIVE

buh-NEV-uh-lunt

kind and wanting to help others.

"The benevolent stranger paid for the family's meal."

conspicuous ADJECTIVE

kun-SPIK-yoo-uss

very easy to notice; standing out.

"Her bright red coat made her conspicuous in the crowd."

Why it's tricky 'cu' makes a 'kyoo' sound; ends in '-uous'.

TRICKY

diligent ADJECTIVE

DIL-uh-junt

working hard and being careful.

"A diligent student checks their work before handing it in."

eloquent ADJECTIVE

EL-uh-kwunt

able to speak or write clearly and well.

"The head girl gave an eloquent speech at assembly."

Why it's tricky 'qu' makes a 'kw' sound.

TRICKY

formidable ADJECTIVE

FOR-mid-uh-bul

powerful and a little frightening; hard to beat.

"The chess champion was a formidable opponent."

meticulous ADJECTIVE

muh-TIK-yoo-luss

very careful and exact about small details.

"He kept meticulous notes in his science book."

reluctant ADJECTIVE

rih-LUK-tunt

unwilling; not wanting to do something.

"She was reluctant to leave the warm house in the rain."

resilient ADJECTIVE

rih-ZIL-yunt

able to recover quickly after something difficult.

"Children are often resilient and bounce back fast."

tenacious ADJECTIVE

tuh-NAY-shuss

holding on firmly and refusing to give up.

"Her tenacious effort finally paid off."

Why it's tricky 'ci' makes a 'sh' sound; ends in '-ious'.

TRICKY

Make these words stick

Reading a list once is a start. Pip turns it into a habit.



Practise every word on this list as a free flashcard, with a tap-to-hear guide, a match game and a spelling test, at pip11plus.com/11-plus-vocabulary-year-6. Want the full year-by-year plan? Read the [Year 6 11+ preparation guide](#) at pip11plus.com.

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